



February 6, 2015

CALL TO CHOREOGRAPHERS/DANCERS
Request for Qualifications
Beaverton Ten Tiny Dances 2015

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE

Electronic submission deadline: Monday, March 30, 5 pm, Pacific Standard Time.

PLEASE NOTE. We do not want this application process to dissuade qualified choreographers from applying (for example, those with limited English skills). If you are interested and need assistance, please contact Elaine Worden as listed on the last page.

Project Summary

The Beaverton Arts Commission (BAC) is seeking proposals from choreographers to create and perform a dance as part of Ten Tiny Dances on Saturday, July 11. Ten Tiny Dances has become an annual event in Beaverton, since 2009. Beaverton Ten Tiny Dances is an opportunity to present both contemporary and traditional dance, to highlight and make public the rich mix of cultures in Beaverton, and to attract audience members to a variety of stage sites in Beaverton. The event presents both contemporary dancers and traditional/ethnic dancers on five 4' x 4' stages. The format offers choreographers the opportunity to explore the concept of creative limitation, and the small stage also puts dancers in very close contact with the audience. The Beaverton Arts Commission actively promotes the event and the audience has been large and receptive.

Following is an internet link to a 4-minute film which documents the Beaverton 2014 Ten Tiny Dances. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5O5Hwb3wcA>

It is the intent of the BAC to make a selection from the proposals submitted. However, the BAC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals not in compliance with all public procedures and requirements; to reject any proposal not meeting the specifications set forth herein; and/or to reject all proposals.

Beaverton Ten Tiny Dances Vision

- Maintain the well-established community relationship with Ten Tiny Dances concept
- Engage audiences with unique performance settings



- Offer artists a unique performance experience
- Maintain conception of tiny stage as impetus for creative invention (not simply a pedestal)
- Maintain blend of traditional ethnic cultural art forms as well as contemporary modern

Background

The initial idea for Beaverton Ten Tiny Dances came from the Beaverton Public Art Plan and the notion of using artists to attract people to underutilized spaces in Beaverton. The public art plan also highlights the values of striving for excellence, reaching for significance, and embracing the ethnic diversity that makes Beaverton unique. **This event is built closely around these three values.**

In March 2009, the BAC began consulting with Portland choreographer and founder of Ten Tiny Dances Michael Barber on shaping an event blending Michael's interest in contemporary dance with traditional dance forms representing the ethnic cultures in Beaverton. Michael had presented Ten Tiny Dances 17 times before in various venues in Portland. The collaboration resulted in the selection of a blend of choreographers representing both contemporary and traditional dance forms, and the annual event continues to carefully present both modern and traditional choreographers/performers, with artistic rigor and innovation in the forefront of our artist selection process. The 2011-2014 events were expanded to utilize five different stage locations, highlighting spaces in downtown Beaverton. The 2015 event will continue in this expanded format.

Creative limitation is the framework for Ten Tiny Dances. Dancers present their time and place-based work on a 4' x 4' stage; dances are three to eight minutes in length. Ten Tiny Dances is NOT an opportunity to present a prior piece on stage. It IS an opportunity to create a new work (or modify an existing work) around the notion of creative limitation...creatively using the small stage. The small stage is not a pedestal for performance but a venue for experimenting with creative limitation. It is also an opportunity to engage the audience, as they are in close proximity to the stage. Past stage locations have included Beaverton's Farmers Market (the largest all-agricultural market in Oregon), Beaverton City Library, City Park, Masonic Lodge grounds, Ava Roasteria cafe, and vacant lots and alleyways. Often stages mark new sites for public artwork, or are adjacent to artwork. Ten Tiny Dances is an opportunity to share a new perspective and to think differently about space and performance. Choreographers are encouraged to think creatively about how to work with dancers on the small stage, and may also work with live musicians or other artists. For more information on Michael Barber's Ten Tiny Dance events, see www.tentinydances.org.



Artistic Challenges and Opportunities

- Use of 4' x 4' stage
- Dance being between three to eight minutes in length
- Audience will be close to performers and may be on three or four sides
- Concept of creative limitation (see above)
- Non-traditional stage sites may not be appropriate for certain dance forms:
 - Please make sure your proposal does not violate a traditional form, but perhaps expands that form to make it appropriate to our structure – creativity is encouraged
- Choreographers must make sure that the dance is well suited to outdoor stages in unexpected places
- Dance will be presented five times through the course of the event as audience moves from stage to stage (performers remain at the same stage)
- Music level is difficult to control because of being outside
- Dances are encouraged to surprise, delight, or challenge the audience, but they must be appropriate for outdoor, public audiences
- Dances can use more than one performer as well as recorded music or live musicians

Artist Selection Process and Criteria

A selection panel will review submissions from choreographers and make recommendations to the event coordinator and artistic director. We are specifically looking for:

- Artists interested in the concept of creative limitation/constraint, and who are eager to work with the artistic challenges listed above;
- Artists representing a range of artistic styles;
- Artists who demonstrate clear vision, artistic innovation, and artistic rigor
- Dancers representing the ethnic cultures of Beaverton (including artists of European-American descent);
- Choreographers/dancers representing either contemporary or traditional/ethnic forms

Ten choreographers will be selected, representing traditional/ethnic or contemporary styles. It is anticipated that the majority of these choreographers/dancers or their work will represent the ethnic populations of Beaverton which include Spanish-speaking, Russian-speaking, Asian and Pacific Islanders, Native American, African-American, African, Middle Eastern, Slavic and others. We encourage proposals from choreographers that draw from contemporary or traditional/ethnic backgrounds and dance forms, and collaborations between choreographers and choreographers and musicians.



Compensation and Artist Requirements

Each choreographer will receive \$1,000. No additional funds are available for travel, musicians, etc. Choreographers decide how to use the \$1,000.

Choreographers must:

1. Attend one (1) informational meeting of all artists
2. Participate in a facilitated talk-back (dialogue) session with audience members following the event. Choreographers must participate in the event, and dancers are invited to participate if they choose.

Choreographers and dancers must:

3. Attend run-through and bring music to perform the piece the evening of Friday, July 10
4. Be on site at least 1.5 hours prior to the event on Saturday, July 11
5. Perform their dance 5 times during the event

Choreographers will receive the full \$1,000 fee only if they participate in these five activities.

To Apply

Submit the following in a single PDF document:

- Written description of your 3-8 minute dance piece. Description can be no longer than 250 words and must be in pdf format.
- Resume/vita, no longer than 2 pages, in pdf format
- Link to webpage showing video of your previous choreography and performance, or a DVD showing 3-5 minutes of your previous choreography and performance. **The weblink is much preferred.**
 - It is the applicant's responsibility to identify exactly which 3-5 minute segment(s) of the weblink or cd or dvd the selection panel should watch. The review panel will not be able to watch more than the 3-5 minute section(s).
 - The selection committee finds it very helpful if the weblink/DVD contains work that was done in a confined space, on a small stage, or if a 4'x4' square is taped on to the floor representing the stage size.

Deadline to apply is Monday, March 30, 5 pm, Pacific Standard Time.

Submit materials electronically to Elaine Worden at eworden@BeavertonOregon.gov.



We are looking forward to receiving materials from a variety of qualified contemporary and traditional/ethnic choreographers/dancers. Please do not hesitate to email (eworden@BeavertonOregon.gov) or call (503-526-2299) if you have questions or need assistance. We do not want this application process to dissuade qualified choreographers from applying (for example, those with limited English skills). If you are interested and need assistance, please contact us.

Thank you for your interest!